(c) if so, the number of times such talks have been held; and

(d) the decisions taken so far during such talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India and US have entered into an understanding to resume civil nuclear energy cooperation. This understanding is as laid out in the Joint Statement of July 18, 2005 issued during the visit of Prime Minister to Washington DC.

(b) to (d) Currently, India and US are engaged in negotiations to conclude a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement. So far, both sides have held four rounds of discussions. The first round took place in New Delhi from June 12-14, 2006; the second in New Delhi from March 25-27,2007; the third in Cape Town from April 16-19,2007; and the fourth in Washington on April 30 and May 1, 2007. Discussions are continuing with a view to finalising the bilateral cooperation agreement in civil nuclear energy.

Atomic energy generation projects in India

†3814. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are seven atomic energy generation projects in India with a generation capacity of 3380 megawatts;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are five such projects in Russia and China but with over 4000 MWe capacity;

(d) if so, whether it also a fact that the technique adopted in the field of atomic energy in India is expected to be more costlier in comparison to above countries; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons behind not setting up projects in India on the lines of those in Russia and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) There are 6 nuclear power

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

stations consisting of 17 nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 4120 MWe (Mega Watt electrical) in operation. In addition, 6 nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 3160 MWe are under construction in India.

(c) There are 7 reactors of a total capacity of 4876 MWe in Russia and 5 reactors of a total capacity of 4533 MWe in China under construction.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Indo-US nuclear agreement

† 3815.DR.MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are several countries in the world who have expressed their dissent to the nuclear agreement signed by India and America on the 18th July, 2005 for civil purposes;

(b) if so, the names of those countries and their reactions thereto separately;

(c) whether efforts have been made by Government to put India's viewpoint before those countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The resumption of full civilian nuclear cooperation with India requires adjustment of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) guidelines. As part of July 2005 India-US understanding on civil nuclear cooperation, US has undertaken to work with its partners in the NSG for adjusting its guidelines to enable full civilian nuclear cooperation and trade with India. The matter at present is under consideration of the NSG. The position of different NSG member countries is evolving. While some countries like UK, France and Russia have expressed their support, others are yet to formalise their position. This is an ongoing process.

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